Laundering Money for ULFA

1936. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ULFA has established an extensive net-work of companies in Bangladesh to act as fronts for laundering money and stashed away more than Rs. 600 crore in a leading national bank in the country and if so the details thereof; and

(b) whether the matter was taken up with Government of Bangladesh to check the activities of ULFA in that country if so, what is the reaction of Government of Bangladesh with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Reports indicate that ULFA has commercial interests in Bangladesh and indulges in activities prejudicial to the security interests of India. Reports also indicate that bank accounts are being operated by insurgent groups in Bangladesh. The matter has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh and they have assured that they will not allow negative elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to the interests of India.

Purulia Arms Dropping Case

1937. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent revelation made by the Prime accused in the purulia arms drop case that the U.K. Government had complete prior knowledge of that arms drop and his contract to carry out the missions and also about his being instructed by the U.K.'s defence export service organisation to carry on with the deal; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The purulia arms drop case is sub judice as the same is being tried by the competent Court at Calcutta.

Secretary level talks with Bangladesh

1938. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two-day Home Secretary level talks between India and Bangladesh were held in November, 1998 in Dhaka to take effective action to curb the activities of the insurgents from across the border, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 23rd November, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of deliberations between them and the outcome thereof particularly to curb the activities of smugglers, criminals and touts as well as exchanging of information about them; and

(c) whether Bangladesh has assured India that no body would be allowed to use the Bangladesh soil for anti-India activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The third Home Secretary level talks between India and Bangladesh were held between November; 21-23, 1998 at Dhaka. The discussions on issues of mutual concern to both countries included security related issues, cross border movement, visa regime, boundary demarcation, trans-border crimes

etc. Both sides agreed to intensify cooperation to curb transborder crimes like trafficking in women and children, drug trafficking, dacoities, smuggling, cattle lifting etc. Both sides reconfirmed their resolve not to allow undesirable elements to use their territories for action prejudicial to the security interests of the other.

US warning on threat from AL-Umma

1939. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 29th November, 1998 captioned "US warns citizens in South India to be on alert on December 6, 1998" in the wake of potential threats from Al-Umma;

(b) whether it is a fact that Al-Umma were suspected to be behind the February 1998 bombing in Coimbatore that killed 46 people; and

(c) if so, what preventive measures/directions in this regard have being issued by Centre to Southern Sates to strengthen the coastal surveillance so as to counter the activities of Al-Umma?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter relating to bomb blasts at Coimbatore in which 63 persons were killed is under investigation with Tamil Nadu Police.

(c) The concerned State Governments were suitably sensitized. Additional Para Military Forces where required were also provided to meet any contigency. The Coast Guard ships and aircrafts maintain regular and intensive surveillance of sensitive coastal areas in coordination with Indian Navy and the State Security agencies to prevent any subversive or anti-national activities.

Toll free phone in Counselling Service

1940. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has started a toll free phone in Counselling Service, named the "CHILDLINE" on October 2, 1998, for children who are abused sexually or otherwise;

(b) if so, what other services and aids would be provided to these children besides specialised counselling; and

(c) the details of the organisational netork provided for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Crime by insurgents in Assam

1941. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of police personnel, army personnel, para-military forces and general public killed, murdered and kidnapped by insurgent groups in the State of Assam particularly in the North Cochar Hills and Karbi Anglong distticts in Assam during the last five years and till date;

(b) the name and addresses of the said victims;